221 pations, and therefore, on the nature of their camps and
805 house types. It may be noted in passing that the seasonal
813 influence on their lives and occupations is well appreciated by the natives themselves, and that they divide the annual cycle into six or more phases or seasons which they name from the winds, the weather conditions, or from the food supplies which characterise them. And again, they will name these phases, and state without hesitation the appropriate occupational sites at each of them, and their activities and food supplies which depend upon these seasonal conditions, with an insight and a precision that no white man who is not a trained ecologist and well versed in botany and zoology, could approach.

[133] During the wet season the river courses rise quickly and
221 soon overflow their banks so that the country is flooded for
[137] miles. The grass, especially on the plains, grows rank and
342 high—often more than six feet—and the people are con-
361 centrated in semi-permanent wet season camps in which the population may exceed one hundred. Here they lead an almost sedentary existence in contrast with their active nomadic life in the south-east season. At this time they construct houses, sometimes of large size—thatched with bark of tea-tree (*Melaleuca*) or of stringybark (*Eucalyptus tetro-*
[352] *donta*). Some of these houses are well built and are provided
[372] with sleeping platforms under which fires can be lighted as a protection against mosquitoes. They are also equipped with racks to carry food and utensils. Each house type has its own traditional form, type of construction and distinctive name, and is often developed in adaptation to a particular environment, or is determined by the building materials available in the vicinity. Nine or ten types of houses or shelters are recognised in Arnhem Land. These vary from simple breakwinds built on the windward side in the "dry"